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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Devlin, et al.)
Serial No.: 10/773,079)
Filed: February 5, 2004) Group Art Unit: 1641
Title: Method for Automatically Storing and) Examiner: Unknown
Reprocessing Patient Specimen's in an)
Automatic Clinical Analyzer)
Atty Docket No.: DCS-9119B)

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

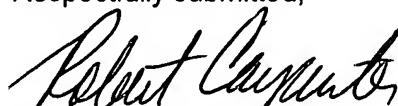
Mail Stop Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed for the above-referenced application the following:

- 1) Preliminary Amendment (1cc, 2pgs); and
- 2) A Return Postcard.

Respectfully submitted,

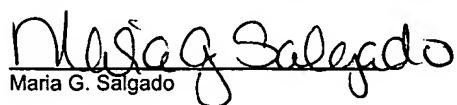


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 26 day of May 2004.



Maria G. Salgado



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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please amend the application as follows:

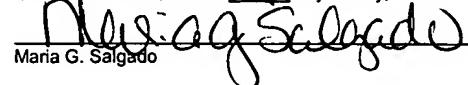
IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page one, before the first sentence, please insert a new sentence

-- This application is a continuation-in-part of US Serial Number 09/827,045 filed on April 5, 2001, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of US Serial Number 09/725,621 filed on November 30, 2000, now abandoned. --

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 26 day of May, 2004.


Maria G. Salgado